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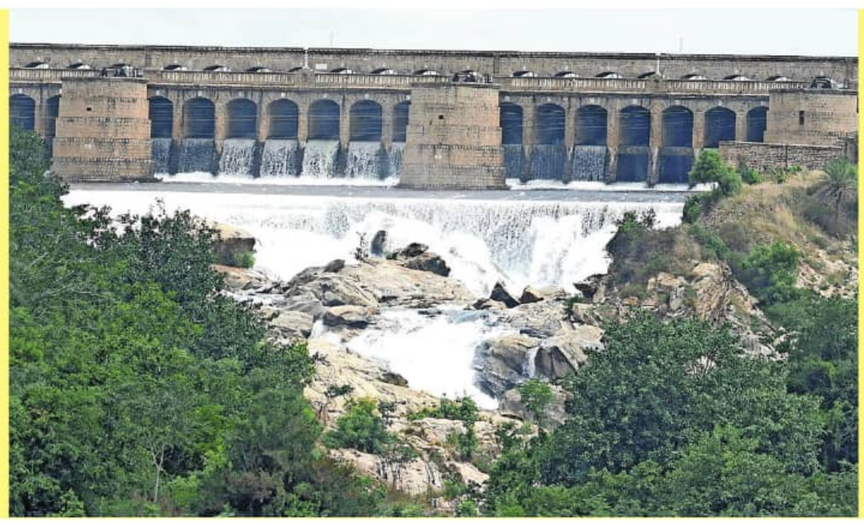
Bangalore Mirror

TEMP Max 34 | Min 21 | Humidity 18% Mostly cloudy Sensex 74,106 | Nifty 22,968 | Gold 1,50,413 | Silver 2,32,729 | Dollar 92.97 | Euro 107.29 | GBP 122.97

HIGH TIME

City witnessing nearly 22 cases under Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act every single day in 2026

PAGE 3



WATER MARK

Water level in Cauvery reservoirs that are important source of water to Bengaluru lower than last year, but officials say city's needs will be met

PAGE 5

Traffic violations are proving to be major trigger points for road rage incidents; instances of speeding, reckless lane changes, overtaking, minor collisions are turning into full-blown violent stand-offs, police officials say

MAD MAX: FURY ROAD

4,202 cases of speeding, 1,721 of reckless driving reported in Jan-Feb

| Sanjana CS
c-sanjana.s@timesofindia.com
TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

Traffic violations and road rage are often seen as separate issues, but on Bengaluru's busy roads, they are increasingly intertwined, creating daily challenges for commuters and traffic officials alike.

While violations such as speeding and reckless lane changes may appear routine, they frequently act as a triggering cause for road rage incidents. Traffic police officials note that at least one such incident linked to a violation is reported every day, underlining how minor breaches of rules can quickly escalate into serious confrontations on the streets.

In the most recent such case, a social media user identified as Shriraj Bhardwaj shared a road rage incident with this ominous caption, "This could have ended much worse." He shared a post stating March 25, around 8.20 pm of when his colleagues and he were driving back on Sarjapur Road when they encountered an autorickshaw coming straight at them on the wrong

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8 »

> **"Behaviours such as sudden braking, abrupt lane changes, and high-speed chases are increasing, particularly on arterial roads and congested stretches. These actions often lead to near-miss situations, escalating tensions between motorists and, in several cases, resulting in physical altercations**
>
> –Traffic police official

In B'luru, it is a gig deal

City accounts for 32% of state's registrations to gig workers' insurance scheme, but awareness and implementation challenges remain

| Sridhar.Vivan
@timesofindia.com
TWEETS @sridharVMIRROR

Bengaluru alone contributes 9,759 of the total 30,256 gig workers enrolled under the Karnataka State Gig Workers Insurance Scheme, accounting for roughly 32 percent of all registrations in the state, according to Labour Minister Santosh Lad. The data underlines the city's dominance as the nerve centre of e-commerce in Karnataka.

The next highest district, Belagavi, has 1,928 registrations, followed by Dharwad with 1,619 and Mysuru with 1,424. Even when combined, these three districts fall short of Bengaluru Urban's total, reflecting the concentration of app-based jobs such as delivery, ride-hailing and freelance services in the capital.

"Bengaluru's share clearly shows where the gig economy is most active here. The scheme is designed to ensure that these workers, who form a critical part of urban services, are not left without social security," an official said. The scheme, implemented through the Karnataka State Unorganised Workers Social Security Board, provides Rs 2 lakh accident compensation and Rs 2 lakh life insurance, totalling Rs 4 lakh coverage

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THINGS TO DO

01 Learning amidst nature

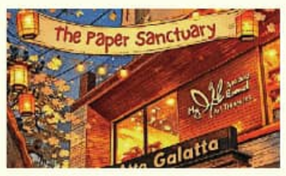
Career Compass, in association with Laughing Elephants, presents an unforgettable outdoor summer camp amidst the tranquil Sharavathi backwaters near Jog Falls. Designed for children and teenagers aged 10 to 18, the camp offers opportunities to explore nature and build new skills.
Those interested can contact for registration: +91 98450 47991
When: April 9 to 23, May 7 to 21, June 11 to 25

02 Elevated match experience

Loco Lane is elevating the match-day experience from the standard bar stool to the ultimate fan sanctuary. This season, fans can swap the crowded stands for the comfort of premium box seating with the launch of an all-inclusive IPL Live Screening package, blending high-energy sports viewing and gourmet dining.
Where: Loco Lane, Ashok Nagar;
When: Until May 31, 5 pm

03 Blissful escape

Inspired by bookshops of Japanese fiction, The Paper Sanctuary transforms Atta Galatta into a retreat



for the tactile and the thoughtful. Visitors can browse the stalls, find a new favourite notebook, and enjoy a weekend dedicated to the art of writing and more.
Where: Atta Galatta, Indiranagar;
When: April 11 and 12, 11 am

04 Storytelling through dance

The Lewis Foundation of Classical Ballet is presenting A Tale of Dreams and Destinies based on a classic tale from One Thousand and One Nights, exploring the power of a dream, and the courage it takes to make it real, no matter who you are.
Where: Prestige Centre for Performing Arts, Konanakunte;
When: April 11 (By invitation) and 12 (Open to all)

05 Rest as art

ArtFlute is presenting Choosing to Rest, an online exhibition that explores rest not as inactivity, but as presence - a moment of listening to the body, intuition, and inner rhythm in a world defined by speed and constant output.
Where: ArtFlute Online Gallery (www.artflute.com);
When: Until April 10

Child-friendly spaces created inside prison barracks

Learning programme and infrastructural changes now introduced as part of efforts to adapt prison environment to suit needs of children growing up in correctional settings

Bangalore Mirror Bureau
mybangaloremirror
@timesofindia.com
TWEETS @BangaloreMirror

As part of programme, children are introduced to early education through play-based methods

In a step towards improving the lives of children living inside prisons, the police in collaboration with the department of women and child development, have introduced a structured learning programme within the women's barracks, turning parts of the facility into a more nurturing and child-friendly space.

The initiative has transformed otherwise austere prison interiors with bright, engaging visuals such as painted walls featuring animals, flowers and vibrant colours. The idea is to create an environment that shields young children from the psychological impact of growing up within a correctional setting and instead offers them a sense of normalcy.

At present, seven children below the age of six, are part of this programme. They attend daily sessions conducted within the barracks, where they are introduced to early childhood education through play-based methods. Lessons include basic language learning in Kannada, English and Hindi, along with activities that encourage social interaction and emotional development.

Efforts have also been made to adapt the infrastructure to suit the needs of young children. Dedicated child-friendly toilets and spaces have been set up to ensure safety and comfort, making the environment more suitable for early learning.

Officials involved in the programme have underlined that the initiative goes beyond classroom instruction. It also incorporates counselling support for children and awareness sessions for their mothers, covering topics such as childcare, welfare schemes and legal rights. In certain cases, assistance related to adoption procedures is also made available.

Experts stress that early interventions in custodial settings are vital, as stress, confinement and lack of stimulation during sensitive childhood years can cause lasting harm

The response from inmates was initially cautious, with only a few opting to enrol their children. However, participation has steadily increased as more women have begun to trust the programme and recognise its benefits.

Encouraged by its early success, authorities are now exploring the possibility of introducing similar models in other prisons across Karnataka, with the aim of ensuring that children living in such environments receive care, education and emotional support during their formative years.

Experts say such interventions are critical in preventing long-term emotional and developmental setbacks among children raised in custodial environments. "The early years of a child's life are extremely sensitive. Exposure to stress, confinement and a lack of stimulation can have lasting consequences. Programmes like these help create a protective buffer," said a child psychologist.

Criminologists have also emphasised the broader rehabilitative value of such initiatives. "When prisons begin to acknowledge the needs of inmates as parents, it marks a shift from a purely punitive approach to a more reformative one. Supporting children in these spaces indirectly aids in the emotional stability of incarcerated mothers as well," said a criminology professor. "Children in prisons are among the most invisible groups in society. Giving them access to structured learning and emotional care is not just welfare—it is a matter of rights and dignity," he explained.

Rising gas prices push hotel meal costs higher

Hotel owners across the city have increased prices for meals, snacks, and beverages following a sharp rise in commercial cooking gas prices. The cost of a 19-kg commercial LPG cylinder has surged by Rs 497 in the past month, reaching Rs 2,161, prompting eateries to raise rates quietly. Idlis and rava idlis now cost Rs 5 more, dosas Rs 10 extra, and some hotels have increased coffee and tea prices by Rs 2–3. Even buns in Mangaluru-style bakeries have risen from Rs 55 to Rs 60, while meals at prominent hotels in Malleshwaram now cost Rs 100 for two poories, up from Rs 80 two months ago.

The price surge comes amid supply shortages caused by the ongoing Middle East conflict, with only 50 per cent of commercial gas reaching the market. Despite the hikes, hotel associations say they are cautious to avoid losing customers, adjusting rates only based on rising expenses. **–BMB**

Teachers caught up in double duty

Thousands of teachers across Karnataka are facing a scheduling nightmare as the state government has assigned them simultaneously to two critical tasks. While teachers are expected to start evaluating SSLC answer scripts from April 8, the same educators are also scheduled for census training on April 7–8. With over 70,000 teachers registered as evaluators, the overlap has left many questioning how they can manage responsibilities at two separate locations on the same day.

Teacher unions have suggested alternative arrangements, such as conducting census training at district centres rather than Bengaluru and adjusting dates to avoid overlap. They also requested that teachers involved in SSLC answer script evaluation be exempted from census duties during the evaluation period, but the school education department has reportedly rejected these requests. Appeals to higher authorities remain pending. **–BMB**

CBFC makes audio descriptions mandatory

The Central Board of Film Certification (CBFC) will now require all films released in theatres to include audio description and closed captions, officials announced. A CBFC's regional officer in Bengaluru, said the move aligns with the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016, ensuring that viewers with visual or hearing impairments have equal access to the cinematic experience. While previously these features were mandatory only for multilingual releases, the new rules, effective from March 15, extend the requirement to all full-length films, with exemptions currently provided for short films, teasers, and trailers under 10 minutes.

Audio description narrates on-screen action, gestures, and scene changes during dialogue pauses, enabling visually impaired viewers to follow the story fully. Closed captions provide dialogue and sound details in the original language, going beyond standard English subtitles for foreign audiences.

–BMB

One case every hour: Bengaluru faces alarming drug spike rate

With over 1,200 cases in just two months, Bengaluru's drug situation signals rising consumption, active supply chains and increasing pressure on law enforcement

Sridhar.Vivan
@timesofindia.com
TWEETS @sridharVMIRROR

Persistent drug cases indicate entrenched networks across Bengaluru

Bengaluru has emerged as the epicentre of drug-related offences in Karnataka, with data showing the city is witnessing nearly 22 cases under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act every day in 2026. Based on official figures till February 28, the city recorded 1,283 cases in just 59 days, translating to almost one case every hour, underlining a deeply concerning trend.

The data was presented in the legislative session by Home Minister G Parameshwara. He said, "Out of the 1,283 cases registered in the city, action has been taken in 833 cases, while 449 remains pending, indicating a significant backlog in investigations. When compared to the statewide total of 2,378 cases, Bengaluru alone accounts for more than half, highlighting its disproportionate share in drug-related crimes. Other cities such as Mysuru (126 cases) and Mangaluru (121 cases) trail far behind, reinforcing the capital's position as the most affected urban centre."

The near-hourly detection of NDPS cases points to both heightened enforcement and the widespread presence of drug networks operating within the city. Experts note that such a high frequency is rarely seen in other parts of the state, raising concerns about the scale of consumption and distribution in a rapidly growing metropolitan environment. The data also suggests enforcement agencies are under constant pressure, with new cases emerging almost around the clock.

Across Karnataka, while 1,473 cases have seen action, as many as 1,060 remain pending, reflecting challenges in investigation and prosecution. Some districts present an even grimmer picture. Shivamogga has reported 93 cases, all pending, while Kodagu has 60 pending out of 94. These disparities point to uneven enforcement and delays beyond Bengaluru as well.

Experts note such frequency is unusual in the state, raising concerns about consumption and distribution, while enforcement agencies remain under pressure

Police officials said that trends in drug production and trafficking further complicate the situation. Although the number of identified manufacturers has reduced, cases against peddlers remain high, indicating supply chains are adapting rather than disappearing. Authorities maintain that no large organised syndicates have been officially detected, but the volume and consistency of cases suggest a deeply entrenched network.

Police have intensified measures through directives, including awareness campaigns, stricter investigation protocols, and coordinated action at the station level. These efforts are part of a push towards a drug-free Karnataka. "However, Bengaluru's stark numbers paint a worrying picture. With nearly one NDPS case being registered every hour, the data signals not just an enforcement challenge, but a growing urban crisis that demands urgent and sustained intervention," said an activist.

20-year-old woman assulted, five suspects arrested

A 20-year-old woman, Afruja Parven, was allegedly attacked by a group of men in Varthur after she resisted their advances. The accused later claimed she was involved in an illicit relationship. Police have arrested five members of the group. According to officials, the incident came to light after Afruja filed a complaint on April 5, 2026, at around 5.20 pm. She stated that a group of boys living near her residence on Balagere Road had been following her regularly during her commute. Despite warning them, the harassment continued. On April 3, at approximately 10.30 pm, the accused, identified as Jamshid, Tookon, Bapun, Noor, and others, confronted her near her home. Varthur Police registered a case under the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023. Five accused—Baban, Patai, Sukshapar Khatun, Seema, and Asura Khatun—have been arrested, while three remain absconding. Efforts are ongoing to trace them. **— BMB**

Actor ambushed, night turns violent in Bengaluru

A 33-year-old actor Niranjan, known for his role in Odeya alongside Darshan, was allegedly attacked by a group of unidentified men on March 28 near Uttarahalli Road, Bengaluru, under Subramanyapura police jurisdiction. The incident occurred around 2.00 am as Niranjan was returning from his friend Yashas Surya's residence. Niranjan entered the bar to avoid confrontation, but 3–4 men in a silver Toyota Innova (KA-04-MH-0734) followed and attacked him. He was reportedly punched repeatedly, while two individuals struck his head with a beer bottle, causing bleeding injuries. More people joined the assault before the attackers fled. During the chaos, his mobile phone reportedly fell and went missing. A case has been registered, and police identified three accused: Raghvendra, Prajwal, and Nithin. Notices have been issued to two, and investigations are ongoing. **— BMB**

Traffic anger cannot justify dangerous road behaviour

The Karnataka High Court recently declined to quash criminal proceedings against a Bengaluru-based software engineer accused in a road rage incident, emphasising that such allegations must be examined through the course of investigation rather than being dismissed at the threshold. The case arose from a traffic altercation in which the accused allegedly rammed his car into a two-wheeler carrying a man, his wife, and their child. The complaint suggested that the act was not accidental but stemmed from anger during the confrontation on the road. During the hearing, the Court made sharp oral observations on the need for restraint amid the city's traffic conditions. It remarked, "Bangalore traffic will teach you patience," underscoring that frustration on congested roads cannot justify aggressive or dangerous behaviour. It observed that the matter required a full investigation and that disputed questions of fact could not be adjudicated in a petition seeking quashing.

Making its position clear, the bench noted that there was no basis to halt proceedings at the preliminary stage and reiterated that road rage incidents cannot be taken lightly, particularly when they involve potential danger to human life. In view of the Court's observations, the petitioner chose to withdraw the plea, with liberty approaching the Court again after filing the chargesheet. **— BMB**

How was 15-year-stay allowed on tourist visa?

IN HIGH COURT

The Karnataka High Court on Monday questioned how a French national had managed to remain in India for an extended period without any formal residency or citizenship status.

Hearing the matter, a bench led by Justice Sachin Shankar Magadum reacted with surprise after being informed that the petitioner, Christophe Stephan Monxion, had spent nearly 15 years in the country on a tourist visa. The submission was made by Deputy Solicitor General of India H Shanthi Bhushan, appearing for the Foreigners Regional Registration Office (FRRO), in response to the petitioner's challenge against a 'Leave India' notice dated March 16, 2026.

Expressing disbelief, the court orally observed, "15 years in India on a tourist visa? Running a restaurant?" The government's counsel argued that the petitioner should comply with the notice and leave the country at the earliest, warning that non-compliance could lead to criminal action, including the filing of an FIR.

Recording its observations, the court noted:

"The petitioner has impugned the 'Leave India' notice issued against him... During investigation, it has been found that petitioner has violated his tourist visa and that he doesn't deserve to further stay in India for even a day..." **— BMB**

Sexual harassment case against airport staff stays

The High Court of Karnataka on Monday declined to interfere with a criminal case registered against a 25-year-old contractual ground staff member at Kempegowda International Airport, accused of sexually harassing a foreign passenger.

Justice M Nagaprasanna dismissed a petition filed by Mohammed Afan Ahmed, a resident of Thomas Town, who had sought to quash the First Information Report (FIR) lodged against him.

According to the complaint, the 32-year-old South Korean businesswoman was stopped by the accused after she had cleared immigration formalities for an international flight.

The woman claimed she was taken to a men's washroom under the pretext of further inspection. There, the accused allegedly subjected her to an intrusive physical search without consent and touched her inappropriately despite objections.

Based on her complaint dated January 19, 2026, airport police registered a case under Section 75(1)(i) (sexual harassment) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita. The Court refused to quash proceedings and allowed investigation to continue. **— BMB**

From play zone to danger zone: Park neglect worsens

Once vibrant park now struggles with broken equipment, poor sanitation and safety concerns, leaving children with limited safe spaces to play nearby

Iffath Fathima
iffath.fathima
@timesofindia.com

TWEETS @BangaloreMirror

Poor sanitation and broken infrastructure reduce park usability significantly

Atal Bihari Vajpayee Park at Kaggadasapura Lake, along with another park near the Malleshpalya bus stand, is drawing concern from residents over severe neglect and lack of basic amenities, leaving children without safe and accessible play spaces. What should be a safe and welcoming recreational area has, over the past few years, slipped into neglect, limiting access to a functional play space in the neighbourhood.

Broken slides, damaged swings, and worn-out play equipment have remained unrepaired for months, posing safety risks. Rusted structures, missing components, and unstable installations have made parents wary of allowing their children to play freely. Uneven walking paths and overgrown vegetation further add to the hazards, making visits inconvenient.

According to residents, they have been following up on the issue since 2023. Despite submitting several letters to BBMP officials and MLAs, the lack of maintenance has persisted for four to five years. The gradual decline has reduced footfall, with many families now travelling farther distances for better-maintained parks. Parks in nearby areas such as Thippasandra have become preferred options, even though they are located 2–3 kilometres away.

Shachi Pathak, a civic volunteer, highlighted multiple issues affecting usability and safety. "The play equipment has been in a damaged condition for years. Parents are constantly worried because the swings and slides are broken, and there is no regular inspection or replacement of these facilities," she said. She added that the absence of proper safety measures, such as soft flooring, further increases injury risks. "Instead of sand, there should be soft mats installed in the play area to ensure children's safety."

> **"The play equipment has been in a damaged condition for years. Parents are constantly worried because the swings and slides are broken, and there is no regular inspection or replacement of these facilities"**
>
> –Shachi Pathak, civic volunteer

Basic amenities remain another major concern. The park lacks toilets and drinking water facilities, making it difficult for families, especially those with young children, to spend extended time there. "There is no toilet for children or for parents accompanying them, which is particularly challenging for those with young girls," Pathak noted.

Sanitation within the park is also poor, with only one garbage bin available. Water stagnation in certain areas has led to mosquito breeding, raising health concerns. The presence of a garbage transfer station just outside the park adds to foul smells and an unhygienic environment.

Security is another issue flagged by residents. The absence of guards has raised safety concerns, particularly during early mornings and evenings. Parents say this lack of supervision makes the park less secure for children.

"There should be a proper system where park equipment is checked and replaced at fixed intervals. Right now, there is no accountability, and the condition has just worsened over time," Pathak added.

With limited green spaces nearby, residents are urging authorities to prioritise restoration, improve amenities and ensure regular maintenance.

Fresh, local, sustainable: Farmers market buzzes with life

First-ever farmers market brings residents closer to local producers, promoting sustainable living, fresh produce and meaningful community connections in Kasavanahalli ward

Y Maheswara Reddy
c-y.reddy@timesofindia.com

TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

Residents of Reliable Lakedew Residency

The first-ever Farmers Market, a community-driven initiative designed to bridge the gap between local producers and urban residents, was conducted at Reliable Lakedew Residency in Kasavanahalli ward on Sunday.

In an era dominated by digital messaging and screen-based interactions, the event prioritised the human element, encouraging neighbours to connect face-to-face over shared values of health and sustainability.

The market was positioned as a step towards eco-conscious living, operating on an almost zero-waste model. Residents and visitors were encouraged to bring their own cloth bags and containers to support the mission of reducing single-use plastics and minimising the community's environmental footprint.

The market showcased a curated selection of seasonal fruits and vegetables sourced directly from local farmers, along with freshly made breads and treats using wholesome, chemical-free ingredients. It also featured all-natural, nostalgic summer refreshments, adding to the experience.

To complement the shopping experience, the event featured live music, creating a vibrant atmosphere for families to linger and socialise. The association emphasised that the market is not just a commercial exchange, but a space to reclaim the joy of physical community gathering.

Shobha Rander, who owns Satatyug that markets alternatives for single use plastics, said that she was very happy to participate in such a natural, lovely open space and interact with residents.

> **"Thanks to the management committee who made this a successful event and opened the doors for future zero waste events. A similar event will be held at King's Street in Richmond Town on Sunday**
>
> –Shobha Rander (owner of Satatyug)

"Thanks to the management committee who made this a successful event and opened the doors for future zero waste events. A similar event will be held at King's Street in Richmond Town on Sunday," she said.

Sailaja Dutta, one of the organisers of the farmers market, said the event has provided an opportunity for the residents to buy organic vegetables and produce. "I want more and more such events in the future," she said.

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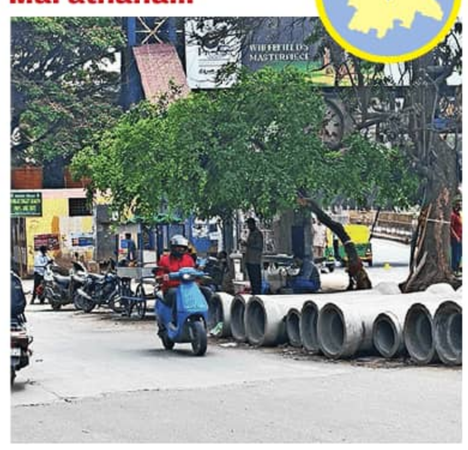
Problems in your area?
Send us a picture along with specific details. And please, no phone calls or spamming

Road danger
TC Palya

A severely damaged road near Flomont School in TC Palya is causing frequent accidents and posing serious risks to commuters.

Blocked path
Marathahalli



Water pipes left unattended on the main road in Spice Garden, Marathahalli for over a month are disrupting traffic flow and causing inconvenience to commuters.

Pothole peril
Bannerghatta Road

Deepening potholes in Vijaya Bank Layout near IIMB on Bannerghatta Road are posing a serious danger to commuters.

Truth vs threat in banner battle

Y Maheswara Reddy
c-y.reddy@timesofindia.com
TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

Woman activist defamed by banners, CCTV evidence shared, culprits unidentified, probe continues

A few miscreants are trying to silence a woman whistle-blower in Vignananagar ward in KR Puram Assembly constituency by putting up around 40 banners with her photograph and warning the public about her.

Satyavani, in her complaint to HAL Police, has stated that a group of people put up banners on the main road between Ramesh Nagar and Malleshpalya, defaming her. "I have been highlighting flooding and other civic issues, including encroachment of stormwater drains that led to flooding at Talakaveri Layout and surrounding areas near Basavanagar. With no response from the BBMP engineers and elected representatives at the time, I had no option but to approach the Karnataka Lokayukta, who directed the authorities concerned to clear the encroachments. I never complained against any individual or politician, but they have targeted me. I am worried about my safety. I request the Commissioner of Police to protect women whistle-blowers," said Satyavani.

She said that she even obtained CCTV footage from residents and handed it over to the police, but they are yet to arrest those responsible for putting up the banners. "The vehicles used by the miscreants had no number plates, and most of them were wearing helmets. It happened on the night of March 17," she said.

Satyavani is the president of the Sadhana Talakaveri Women's Association, which has been playing a pivotal role in highlighting civic problems. "I am unhappy about the targeting of a woman activist. It is nothing but harassment," said Veena S, a resident of Talakaveri Layout.

Expressing concern over the malicious campaign against a woman activist, Gayathri Kakde, a social activist, said that she would have to think twice before complaining to the authorities about civic problems. "We, as women, are worried about our safety. The authorities must take action against those responsible for putting up the banners," said Gayathri Kakde.

NR Mahalakshmi of Talakaveri Layout praised Satyavani's social work, condemning the defamatory banners and urging strict action against those responsible.

Meanwhile, the HAL Police Inspector said that an FIR has been registered and that the investigation is ongoing.

No thirst trap for city just yet

Bengaluru faces water worries as Karnataka reservoirs plunge below critical levels, Cauvery catchment shrinks sharply before peak summer pressure

Garima Prasher
garima.prasher@timesofindia.com
TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

Authorities insist supply remains sufficient despite deficit indicators, while regional data highlights uneven distribution, contrasting healthier inflows across Krishna basin systems this season

Bengaluru's drinking water supply remains secure for now, even as storage levels in Karnataka's major reservoirs continue to decline ahead of the monsoon.

According to officials from the Bengaluru Water Supply and Sewerage Board (BWSSB), there is currently sufficient water to meet the city's needs despite lower levels in key reservoirs supplying the capital, particularly those in the Cauvery basin.

Storage in many of Karnataka's major reservoirs has dropped below 40 per cent this week, with Cauvery Basin reservoirs barely half full.

More than 70 per cent of the total major reservoirs (10 out of 14) are currently more than half empty, with storage in some of them below 30 per cent of their total capacity, the reservoir storage report by the Karnataka State Natural Disaster Monitoring Centre (KSNDMC) has highlighted.

While the total capacity of the 14 major reservoirs is 895.07 TMC, the current storage is 359 TMC, which is lower than last year's level of 363.53 TMC.

Regarding reservoirs in the Cauvery catchment area, the current storage of the KRS is at 52 per cent, the highest among all Cauvery Basin reservoirs. Live storage in Hemavati is 50 per cent, followed by Kabini at 47 per cent and Harangi at 39 per cent. In all four reservoirs, the water level is lower compared with last year. The total capacity of the Cauvery Basin reservoirs is 114.57 TMC, and they are currently holding 56.94 TMC of water, compared with 60.73 TMC last year.

Similarly, live storage at all reservoirs in the Krishna basin area ranges between 17 per cent and 74 per cent of their total capacity. However, all six reservoirs in the basin are currently holding more water than last year.

According to the weekly bulletin of the Central Water Commission released on April 2, Karnataka's reservoirs have experienced a departure of 8 per cent from normal storage. This makes Karnataka the only southern state, among Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala, Tamil Nadu and Telangana, experiencing a deficit in reservoir water.

There are 47 reservoirs under CWC monitoring in the southern region, with a total live storage capacity of 55.288 BCM. As per the Reservoir Storage Bulletin on April 2, the total live storage available in these reservoirs is 19.945 BCM, which is 36.07 per cent of their total live storage capacity. The storage during the corresponding period last year was 36.78 per cent, while the normal for the same period was 29.27 per cent of the live storage capacity. Thus, storage in the current year is lower than last year but higher than the normal for the corresponding period.

IN BRIEF

Killer lorry driver finally convicted

A city court has convicted a lorry driver in connection with a fatal road traffic accident that claimed the life of a 44-year-old pedestrian in Bengaluru.

The incident occurred on June 12, 2023, within the jurisdiction of the Yeshwanthpur Traffic Police Station, when a lorry struck the victim, identified as Channegowda. He sustained severe injuries and later succumbed to them. Following the incident, the police registered a case and launched an investigation.

After conducting a detailed probe from multiple angles, the investigating team filed a charge sheet against the accused driver, Ramesh HT (36). The court took cognisance of the case and proceeded with the trial. On February 26, 2026, the 3rd Traffic Court judge, Manju, found the accused guilty of the charges. He was sentenced to 60 days' judicial imprisonment and fined ₹8,000.

Led by Smt. B Chandrakala, the prosecution secured a conviction, with police highlighting efforts to ensure accountability in fatal accidents. **BMB**

Property owner not liable

The High Court has ruled that a property owner cannot be held criminally liable for illegal activities such as prostitution carried out by tenants, unless there is clear evidence showing the owner was aware of such acts.

The decision came while Justice M Nagaprasanna allowed a petition filed by a 54-year-old schoolteacher seeking to quash criminal proceedings initiated against her. The case arose after police conducted a raid in September 2024 at a house she owned in Karkala, Udupi, where a prostitution racket was allegedly being run by tenants.

Authorities had booked the woman under provisions of the Immoral Traffic (Prevention) Act, 1956. The petitioner argued that she had no knowledge of the unlawful activities taking place on the premises and was not residing there at the time. **BMB**

NIMHANS empowers citizens to save lives during critical golden hour

New NIMHANS module trains citizens with simple skills, empowering youth to deliver vital care and save lives during road crashes

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iffath.fathima
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Imagine witnessing a horrific road crash. The clock is ticking, and one doesn't know what to do. For most, fear and confusion lead to hesitation, but a new initiative in Bengaluru is set to turn bystanders into heroes. The National Institute of Mental Health and Neurosciences (NIMHANS) has officially launched its Lay Responder Care Module, a self-learning guide designed to empower the city's youth with the skills to save lives during the Golden Hour. A dedicated website and volunteer identity cards have been introduced under the project titled "Strengthening Capacity of Youth to Provide Lay-Responder Care for Road Crash Victims in Bengaluru City."

The module is structured into chapters that explain the nature of road crashes, risk factors, and ways to reduce injuries. It simplifies complex medical concepts into easy-to-understand steps, followed by self-assessment questions to reinforce learning. Readers are guided through crash patterns, common injuries, and the critical role of timely assistance. The training emphasises standardised steps to ensure ambulances arrive quickly and victims are safely transferred to hospitals. Legal protections under the Good Samaritan Law are highlighted to reduce hesitation and encourage immediate help.

India's road traffic injuries remain a staggering crisis. Despite having only 1% of the world's vehicles, the country accounts for over 10% of global fatalities, with roughly 23 deaths every hour. Alarmingly, half of the victims die before reaching a hospital, and less than one-fourth receive timely first aid. Dr Prabha S Chandra, Director of NIMHANS, stressed the urgent need to strengthen community resilience. She noted that NIMHANS manages 10,000–13,000 traumatic brain injury cases annually, with 70–90% linked to road crashes, underscoring the importance of prevention and effective post-crash care.

Focusing on rapid assessment and safe transfer, the training promotes simple, evidence-based techniques to bridge the gap before professional medical help arrives

Road crashes claim countless lives every hour, self-learning module empowers youth volunteers to act swiftly, overcome hesitation, stabilize victims, and ensure safe transfer during crucial Golden Hour survival window

The training equips ordinary citizens with life-saving protocols. The AVPU Scale teaches responders to quickly assess consciousness by checking if a victim is Alert, responds to Voice, responds to Pain, or is Unresponsive. High-quality CPR is simplified into "Push Fast" (100–120 compressions per minute) and "Push Hard" (at least 5 cm deep). Bleeding control techniques include applying direct pressure, elevation, and tourniquets for severe wounds. Cervical spine stabilisation is taught to prevent paralysis in suspected spinal injuries. By focusing on simple, evidence-based techniques, the module avoids overwhelming lay responders with advanced medical procedures, instead prioritising stabilisation and swift hospital transfer.

The programme has already trained over 900 individuals, including 110 police personnel, and has been well received across institutions. Dr Gautham M Sukumar, Professor and Head of WHO CC for Injury Prevention at NIMHANS, explained that the collaboration with Autoliv India Private Limited, the Karnataka State Police, and the National Institute of Personnel Management has created a structured, simulation-based training module. It equips participants with essential skills such as scene safety, rapid assessment, hands-only CPR, bleeding control, and basic fracture management. He added that district-level training will begin in Karnataka, starting with five districts.

A major barrier to bystander intervention has been fear of legal trouble. National surveys show that 88% of people hesitate to help due to concerns about police mistreatment or liability. The initiative emphasises the Good Samaritan Law, passed in 2016, which ensures that helpers are not liable for civil or criminal charges. They can leave the hospital immediately without furnishing personal details and cannot be forced to pay for treatment. Parashurama K, Commissioner for Traffic and Road Safety, supported the initiative and stressed the need to expand training to frontline police personnel and toll booth workers.

By keeping the content simple and practical, the Lay Responder Care Module aims to build confidence among community members. It encourages ordinary citizens to step forward, overcome hesitation, and provide life-saving care during emergencies. In a city where seconds can mean the difference between life and death, the initiative seeks to transform fear into action and bystanders into heroes.

BM Trippin' Tales

Consumer Connect Initiative

Middle East conflict dents coastal tourism, local businesses face downturn

Falling foreign arrivals, disrupted Gulf travel and gas crisis combine to strain Karnataka's coastal economy during the peak festive season this year, hitting tourism and allied sectors hard

Sridhar.Vivan
@timesofindia.com

TWEETS @sridharvMIRROR

The ongoing conflict in the Middle East has begun to take a visible toll on coastal tourism, with a sharp decline in foreign tourist arrivals and mounting pressure on businesses dependent on the sector.

Disruptions in international air travel, instability along Gulf routes and an emerging gas crisis have created a challenging environment for the tourism industry along the coast. Popular destinations such as Gokarna, Malpe and Trasi Beach, which usually attract a steady inflow of international visitors, are witnessing a noticeable drop in footfall this season.

These locations have traditionally been favoured by tourists from countries such as Russia and Israel. However, due to prevailing geopolitical tensions, foreign tourist arrivals have reportedly declined by nearly 45 per cent. Beaches remain less crowded than expected, directly affecting local economic activity.

Tourism stakeholders say the slowdown has come at a crucial time. The Eid season, which typically sees increased travel movement, has failed to generate the usual influx of visitors this year. Disruptions in flight connectivity with Gulf nations have also affected the movement of Non-Resident Indians, many of whom travel home during festive periods.

Popular beach destinations witness sharp drops in international visitors, reflecting how geopolitical tensions directly disrupt local economies tied to global travel patterns

Quiet beaches, empty rooms and anxious traders reflect a sudden slowdown, as global tensions ripple through local livelihoods, leaving tourism operators bracing for uncertain months ahead along the coast now

With limited travel options, several have stayed back, further reducing tourism-related spending in coastal regions.

The crisis has also cast uncertainty over the future of cruise tourism, which was gradually gaining traction along the Karnataka coast. Industry players fear that continued instability in international travel corridors could delay or derail upcoming plans in this segment.

Beyond tourism, the ripple effects are visible across allied sectors. Hotels, restaurants and small businesses that rely heavily on tourist inflow are facing financial strain. The gas crisis, linked to global supply disruptions, has added to operational challenges by increasing costs for hospitality establishments.

Tourism entrepreneur CS Kamath said the impact has been severe, with aviation restrictions and reduced connectivity leading to a significant drop in foreign arrivals. He noted that businesses dependent on tourism are now grappling with financial uncertainty.

Local traders and service providers have expressed concern over the lack of expected seasonal activity, particularly at major beach destinations. Many say the current downturn is among the most significant in recent years, highlighting the sector's vulnerability to global developments.

The situation underscores how international conflicts can have far-reaching consequences beyond their immediate geography, leaving stakeholders cautious as uncertainty continues.

Bartlett rocks hosts with two wickets in three balls before it started pouring

Rain becomes saviour to KKR

Rain played spoilsport as Kolkata Knight Riders' IPL match against Punjab Kings was interrupted with the home side struggling at 25 for 2 in 3.4 overs amid steady drizzle that later turned into a thunderstorm, on Monday.

Opting to bat on a dry surface, KKR, in search of their first win of the season, were rocked early as Xavier Bartlett struck twice in the space of three balls.

Displaying fine control over swing and seam, the Australian pacer removed KKR's two star overseas recruits Finn Allen (6) and Cameron Green (4), who had been promoted to No. 3.

Green, the highest-paid overseas player at Rs 25.20 crore, continued his miserable outing having earlier managed scores of 18 (against Mumbai Indians) and 2 (Sunrisers Hyderabad), as KKR stumbled having lost their opening two matches.

Skipper Ajinkya Rahane (8) and young wicketkeeper-batter Angkrish Raghuvanshi (7), who has been KKR's most consistent performer this season with successive fifties, were looking to rebuild when persistent drizzle forced the umpires to halt play at 7.45pm.

With Eden Gardens equipped with full ground covers, the groundstaff sprang into action, swiftly covering the entire field.

There was a brief relent when the covers began to come off, but rain returned with thunderstrom and lightning, leaving spectators frustrated as they started leaving.

The match also witnessed a relatively sparse turnout, with 29,358 spectators in attendance possibly due to a Monday fixture and overcast conditions.

All this unfolded in front of Bollywood superstar and KKR co-owner Shah Rukh Khan, who made his first appearance of the season, only to witness a rain-hit evening.

1. Punjab Kings' captain Shreyas Iyer reacts during rain interruption in an Indian Premier League (IPL) 2026 cricket match between Kolkata Knight Riders and Punjab Kings at Eden Gardens, in Kolkata, Monday; 2. Kolkata Knight Riders' Cameron Green walks back to the pavilion after losing his wicket; 3. General view of ground staff with covers on the field

Today's battle
Rajasthan Royals
vs
Mumbai Indians
7.30 PM ACA Stadium, Guwahati

Incidentally, last season's KKR-PBKS fixture at the Eden (April 26) was also affected by rain, with both teams forced to share a point.

The Shreyas Iyer-led Punjab Kings had posted 201 for 4 before KKR reached 7 for no loss when rain intervened.

An inspection was held at 8.45 pm, but with further showers accompanied by gusty Kalbaisakhi (Nor'wester) winds, the outlook remained grim.

Overs begin to be reduced after a delay of one hour, with roughly one over per side lost for every four to five minutes thereafter.

The cut-off time to start a five-overs-a-side match— the minimum required for a result -- was 10.56pm. However, with rain intensifying, a result appeared unlikely. A washout helps KKR open their account with one point after a winless start.

According to the IMD, the rain has been triggered by a low-pressure trough stretching from Bihar to Manipur, passing over North Bengal, Assam and Bangladesh, leading to moisture incursion from the Bay of Bengal.

"Thunderstorms with lightning and rain may occur in most districts of South Bengal. From Sunday to Thursday, scattered rainfall is likely across the state, with higher intensity on Tuesday and Wednesday," the IMD said.

Weather conditions are expected to worsen on Tuesday, with Kalbaisakhi storms likely to bring winds of 50-60 kmph, along with lightning and heavy rain in Kolkata. —PTI

'Not transferable': Parameshwara denies IPL ticket misuse

Karnataka Home Minister G. Parameshwara on Monday dismissed allegations of misuse of Indian Premier League (IPL) match tickets by Karnataka MLAs, explaining that tickets are booked online and attended by those who purchased them.

He noted that only MLAs themselves can go, or their family members can attend the IPL matches at the M Chinnaswamy Stadium in Bengaluru, saying it is clearly mentioned as "non-transferable," so others cannot use it.

"The tickets are booked online, and those who booked them have attended. When tickets are taken online, how can we control who purchases them? There is no misuse. The MLAs themselves can go, or their family members can attend, that is how it is arranged. It is difficult for us to identify any wrongdoing in this. If it is clearly mentioned as "non-transferable," then others cannot use it. But if such a condition is not imposed and it is open, then others can attend. Friends and family members may also go," Parameshwara told the reporters.

This comes after Karnataka Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivkumar last week said three tickets for Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB) matches in the ongoing IPL will be provided to the MLAs and MPs.

Ahead of the IPL 2026, Congress MLA Vijayanand Kashappanavar suggested that every MLA should receive at least five IPL tickets, claiming that elected representatives are "VIPs" who shouldn't have to wait in line.

Home team and defending champions RCB continue their dream run in the IPL 2026, as they registered a commanding 43-run win over Chennai Super Kings (CSK) in the Indian Premier League (IPL) 2026 match on Sunday at the M Chinnaswamy Stadium.

The win marks RCB's second win in as many IPL 2026 matches, and now they sit atop the points table with four points and an impressive Net Run Rate (NRR) of +2.501. —ANI

If Padikkal continues batting like this, it'll be difficult to keep him out of Indian team: Karthik

Royal Challengers Bengaluru mentor Dinesh Karthik believes it will be difficult to keep Devdutt Padikkal out of the Indian team for long, given the manner in which he is batting in the IPL following stellar domestic performances.

Padikkal starred in RCB's big win against Chennai Super Kings on Sunday, scoring a blistering 50 off 29 balls.

Asked about Padikkal's composed knock at the Chinnaswamy Stadium, Karthik, who is also RCB's batting coach, highlighted his composure during a tough initial phase before opening up.

"The first thing that stands out is his determination. On a pitch like this, when runs don't come easily at the start, many batters try to force a big shot and end up giving their wicket away. Devdutt showed great courage to stay patient when the going was tough," Karthik told Star Sports.

"Once he got that first boundary, you could see him switch gears. He's playing proper cricketing shots and hitting the ball with distance. If he continues batting like this, it will be difficult to keep him out of the Indian team for long. He has scored heavily in domestic cricket and we know he's a quality player.

"What's also impressive is the way he's stepping up as a leader in the Karnataka dressing room. Even at 25, he contributes with his ideas and leadership, and that's great to see," Karthik added.

Padikkal's innings featured five boundaries and two sixes, helping RCB reach a mammoth 250/3 after Tim David smashed a 25-ball 70.

RCB won the match by 43 runs, consigning CSK to their third successive defeat.

Former India captain Anil Kumble shared his thoughts on CSK's early challenges in the tournament.

Royal Challengers Bengaluru's Devdutt Padikkal plays a shot during the Indian Premier League cricket match against Chennai Super Kings

"It's a massive concern for Chennai. If your two most experienced batters, Sanju Samson and Ruturaj Gaikwad, haven't fired in the first three matches, it becomes a serious challenge. The rest of the batting line-up, apart from Samson and MS Dhoni, is quite young.

"You need at least one of your experienced batters to step up and deliver a big innings. Unfortunately, in the first three games, things haven't gone Chennai's way. It's still early in the season, but they will need to tighten things up quickly," Kumble said.

During his blazing swashbuckling knock, David struck eights sixes and three four, getting his runs at a strike rate of 280.

Karthik reflected on David's powerful innings and said, "He has a very smooth swing, long levers and all the ingredients required to hit big shots.

"For him, it's about ensuring those elements remain consistent in practice. Because he bats in the middle order, he often gets fewer balls in a match compared to top-order batters. So, in the nets, it's important that he faces enough deliveries and stays in a good rhythm.

RCB skipper Rajat Patidar, who led the team to its maiden title last season, was not to be left behind in the run feast, chipping in with 48 off just 19 balls, and Kevin Pietersen termed the knock a "turning point" of the match. —PTI

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

side leading to a minor collision with no significant damage. The two auto drivers allegedly chased and attacked him and his colleagues.

The auto deliberately crashed into the car, and tried to open its doors. Soon, another auto joined in. Near Sarjapur bridge, the two drivers reportedly blocked the car, and one of them smashed the windshield with a concrete slab, while the occupants were still inside. The victims managed to reach RGA Tech Park, but were followed inside, where Bhardwaj was allegedly assaulted, sustaining minor injuries. Police arrived at the scene, after which one accused apologised while the main accused fled. At the end of the post he said, " Stay alert. Avoid confrontation. And most importantly don't assume you're safe just because you've done nothing wrong."

A traffic police official told BM that common traffic violations often contribute to road rage incidents. He noted that while one commuter may drive responsibly, another may not, and it is difficult to predict how others will behave on the road. "No one intentionally starts a fight. However, when people violate traffic rules whether in a hurry or for other reasons, it can lead to minor accidents, which often end up triggering road rage incidents," the official said.

Another official said that road rage incidents occur almost every day, often triggered by minor issues. "For instance, when someone is speeding, another motorist may react by shouting or confronting them, which can escalate tensions. Similarly, during traffic congestion, attempts to overtake can lead to minor collisions. Even small scratches or dents can spark arguments, with people engaging in heated exchanges on the road," he said.

Traffic police officials note that at least one such case is reported at every station daily, but not every case ends up in an FIR. "In most instances, both parties are heard, the fault is identified, and they are advised to resolve the matter by apologising and moving on. However, if the situation involves the use of abusive language or physical assault, a formal case is registered at the law and order police station and at least one or two such cases are booked every month," he said.

Traffic triggers make motorists blow their fuse

Special drive against drunk driving, speeding

Bengaluru Traffic Police carried out a week-long special enforcement drive during which 638 cases were booked against drivers caught operating vehicles under the influence of alcohol.

The operation was carried out from March 30 to April 5, focusing on curbing drunk driving and overspeeding across the city. It saw coordinated participation from personnel at all 53 traffic police stations.

As part of the drive against drunk driving, officials checked 42,558 vehicles of various categories. Among these, 638 cases were booked against drivers found to be under the influence of alcohol. In a parallel crackdown on speeding, the police registered 151 cases. A total fine amount of ₹1.52 lakh was collected from violators during this enforcement activity.

Officials stated that the special drive was undertaken in response to rising concerns over road safety and increasing instances of traffic violations. Drunk driving and excessive speed remain among the leading causes of fatal accidents in the city. **BMB**

According to traffic police data, this year in the first two months, 4,202 cases were booked for speeding, while other traffic violations such as reckless driving followed with 1,721 violations reported, indicating a significant number of motorists engaging in unsafe driving behaviour. Additionally, 310 cases of zig-zag driving have been recorded, reflecting risky manoeuvres that endanger both the driver and other road users.

A senior police official explained, "Behaviours such as sudden braking, abrupt lane changes, and high-speed chases are increasing, particularly on arterial roads and congested stretches. These actions often lead to near-miss situations, escalating tensions between motorists and, in several cases, resulting in physical altercations."

Several recent cases have involved motorists engaging in verbal abuse, intimidation, and even assault following minor collisions or disputes over right of way. In one such incident, a bus was chased, overtaken, and violently attacked by a group of miscreants on the Nelamangala highway, causing panic among passengers. According to police officials, the episode was triggered by a minor collision between the bus and a car. Following the initial impact, the car allegedly chased the bus and later stopped abruptly in front of it, leading to another collision when the bus driver applied sudden brakes. The accused then reportedly damaged the bus by smashing its windshield and issuing threats. The incident occurred on March 24 at around 4:30 am. Police registered a case, and the suspects later apologised, paid a fine, and compensated for the damaged windshield.

In another incident, a pedestrian confronted a scooter rider on March 30 for using a footpath near St. Patrick's Church on MG Road to bypass traffic. The incident, captured on video, showed a heated argument as the pedestrian insisted the rider return to the road. The rider eventually complied, highlighting growing concerns over footpath misuse and pedestrian safety.

On March 18, another road rage incident occurred on the GKVK Service Road, where a car driver assaulted a biker, who confronted them for driving in the wrong direction. The incident, caught on camera, saw the driver attack the biker while bystanders, including a woman intervened, trying to stop the fight.

Your Connect

personal

CHANGE OF NAME

I Pavan Kumar Gautam Chand R/o 87,5th Main,3rd Phase Manjunathanagar B'lore-560010 have changed my name minor daughter name from Vrinda Teba to Vrinda Pavan Kumar.

I, Pallavi M K W/o Sanjay P Umachigi R/o 104,2nd Floor, Sai Dashan Apts,6th Main, Vidyaranyapura B'lore-560097 have changed my name to Pallavi S Umachigi.

I, Rukmini Mahesh R/o No 154 Btw 5th and 6th Cross Krishnanagar Main Road Chikkadevasandra Kr Puram Bengaluru 560036 Have Changed My Name to Rukmani Mahesh for All Purposes.

I Sudesh Adyanthaya Kolyar, S/o, Sudhakara Adyanthaya Mulki, Residing at, 301, Classic Aloha, B A Bastith Road, Rahath Bagh, Nagavara Palya, CV Raman Nagar Po, Bengaluru 560093, have changed my name to Sudesh Adyanthaya, for all purposes.

I, JAYASHREE JAGADEESH, D/o K. R.Jagadeesh and W/o E. S. Panduranga, aged 58 years, residing at 102, Ravikiran Apartments, 4th Main, 15th Cross, Malleshwaram, Bengaluru 560003, have changed my name to JAYASHREE PANDURANGA for all purposes vide Affidavit dtd 06.04.26 sworn before Notary K Mohan, Bengaluru,

I, Sanjaya Umachigi Prahlad S/o Prahlad Umachigi Narayanachar R/o 693/10 Behind SBM Bhadra Colony Nittuvalli, Davangere-577004 have changed my name to Sanjay Prahlad Umachigi.

I, Govindaraja, R/o 491 Sri Raghavendra Nilaya, Opp. Pillakamma Temple Road, Avalahalli, PO: Virgonagar, Dist: Bengaluru, Karnataka – 560049, have changed my name to Govinda Raju.

I, PRASHANTH P, R/at No. 890, 3rd Floor, Jagadish Nagar, New Thippasandra, Bengaluru-560075, have changed my name to PRASHANTH P, vide affidavit dt: 00.00.2026, before notary B.Chitra, B.lore.

I Kalpana Satishchandra Srivastav W/O, Satish Srivastav R/o Phase 2/106, E Block, Pavani Sarovar, Nalurhalli, Whitefield, 560066 have changed my name to Kalpana Satish Srivastav.

I Ibrahim S/O, Mustafa Iqbal Husain Raja R/o No 3b And 4 2nd Floor F2 Hatim Manzil, 2nd Cross, Vinayaknagar Jp Nagar 5th Phase, Bengaluru, Karnataka, India 560078 have changed my name to Ibrahim Raja.

I, SHIVANAND KAYAKAD, S/o Virupaxappa, R/o No.5284/28, Ward no.15, Shamanna Layout, Nelamangala, Bengaluru Rural – 562123 have changed my name as SHIVANAND V KAYAKAD S/o Virupakshappa, vide affidavit dated 12.02.2026 at Bengaluru for all purposes.

I, Satish S/o Ganganarashi mhaiah R/o No 140-A, Muddlappa Complex Road, Kenchnahalli, Bengaluru - 560098 Have Changed my name to Satish Balenahalli Narashimhiah for All Purposes

I Sannutha Mohandas Shetty, W/o, Chirag Kankanady Manjunath, Residing At, No 234, 8th Cross, Winfield Garden, Shivaram Karanth Nagar, Bengaluru 560077, have changed my name to Sannutha Shetty for all purposes

I Aayush Adyanthaya, S/o, Rakesh Adyanthaya, Residing at, 301, Classic Aloha, B A Basith Road, Rahath Bagh, Nagavarapalya, CV Raman Nagar Post, Bengaluru 560093, have changed my name to Aayush Rakesh Adyanthaya for all purposes.

I Srishti, aged about 27 years, D/o. Ravikumar M B, residing at S S Elina apartment, No.202, Channasandra Layout, Srinivasapura Cross, Rajarajeshwari Nagar, Bengaluru 560098, I have changed my name to Srishti Ravikumar from Srishti vide affidavit dated: 04/04/2026 Before Notary K V prema kumari.

I, MUBASHIRA BEGUM, R/o No.109, near Koyas Factory, M.S. Palya, Vidyaranyapura, Bengaluru – 560097, have changed my name from MUBEESHEERA BEGUM to MUBASHIRA BEGUM, vide affidavit dated 04.04.2026, sworn before notary G. Dayanada, Bengaluru.

I Umme Habeeba Shaista W/O, Zaheer Ahmad Alangayam R/o I T Ascent Building No 119/1 5th Floor Door No 18 Penthouse 8th Cross K Narayanapura Main Road Kathanur Bangalore 560077. have changed my name to Umme Habeeba Shaista Zaheer Ahmad Alangayam.

I, Vivek Vijayalakshmi Balumahendra, S/o. Balasubramanian, R/o. No.29, BGS Layout , H.gollahalli, Anepalya, Kengeri, Karnataka have changed my name from Vivek Vijayalakshmi Balumahendra to Vivek Balasubramanian for all purposes by an affidavit sworn before Public Notary dated 04-04-2026

LOST & FOUND

THIS is to bring to your kind notice that, N.UshaRani, w/o P.Nandagopal, Contact: 9741228340/9886879333, our Arakonnam, TN Land Deed is Missing from 25thMar'26. If found kindly contact to the above number.

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KASHMIR WITH TULIP GARDEN 6 DAYS
APRIL: 11, 18, 25, 29 MAY: 2, 9, 16, 23, 30
CHARDHAM /DHODHAM TOUR 14 DAYS
MAY: 3, 11, 18, 26 JUN: 2, 9, 18, 25 JULY: 9, 17, 24, 30
KASHI GAYA PRAYAGRAJ 6/9 DAYS
APRIL: 15, 25 MAY: 1, 8, 15, 21
NEPAL-MUKTHINATH TOUR
APR: 14, 24 MAY: 5, 19 JUNE : 9, 23 JULY : 7, 21 AUG: 11, 18 SEP: 9, 16, 23, 29, 30
SOUTH INDIA TOUR 6/7 DAYS
APRIL : 11, 14, 25 MAY: 1, 9, 16, 23, 27

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9,759 workers from city have registered

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

per worker. Registrations are being facilitated through the Seva Sindhu portal.

Workers in Bengaluru say the numbers reflect both opportunity and vulnerability. Ramesh Kumar, a food delivery executive in the city, said, "Most of us depend entirely on gig work. There is flexibility in this job, but no guarantee. This insurance at least gives some safety if something goes wrong." A driver with a ride-hailing app, Mohammed Khurshid, pointed out that awareness is still uneven. "Many drivers I know have not registered yet. They either don't know about it or think that the process is complicated. In a city like Bengaluru, the actual number of gig workers is much higher than what is registered," he said.

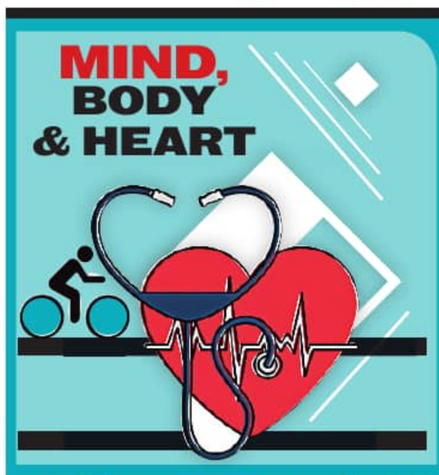
The minister acknowledged that while 30,256 registrations have been completed, the potential base is far larger, especially in Bengaluru. "We expect the numbers to rise significantly as awareness improves and as aggregators come fully on board with data sharing," he said.

To institutionalise welfare measures, the state has enacted the Karnataka Platform-based Gig Workers (Social Security and Welfare) Act, 2025, and created a dedicated welfare fund. Aggregator platforms are mandated to contribute a cess ranging from 1 percent to 5 percent on each transaction involving gig workers.

However, implementation challenges remain. The government is still developing a digital system to streamline registration and data collection. Until then, companies are required to self-report payments and worker details on a quarterly basis.

Experts note that Bengaluru's 32 percent share is both expected and revealing. As India's technology hub, the city hosts the largest concentration of platform companies and gig workers. Yet, the gap between estimated workforce size and registered beneficiaries indicates that policy outreach is still catching up with ground realities.

For workers like Ramesh, the expectation is simple. "If we are powering the city every day, the system should also protect us. This scheme is a start, but it should reach everyone," he said.



All you need to know about...

Probiotic options

1. Yogurt
Yogurt is one of the most popular and easily available probiotic foods. Made through the fermentation of milk by friendly bacteria such as Lactobacillus and Bifidobacterium, yogurt helps maintain a healthy balance of gut flora.
Regular consumption of yogurt supports digestion, boosts immunity, and may even help reduce symptoms of lactose intolerance. When choosing yogurt, go for unsweetened, plain varieties with live or active cultures listed on the label.

2. Kefir
Kefir is a fermented milk drink that's similar to yogurt but thinner in consistency and richer in diverse probiotic strains. It's made using kefir grains, a mix of yeast and bacteria, which makes it a powerhouse for gut health.
It's also a great option for those who are mildly lactose intolerant, as the fermentation process breaks down much of the lactose.

3. Sauerkraut
Sauerkraut is finely shredded cabbage that's been fermented by lactic acid bacteria. It's rich in probiotics, vitamins C and K and fiber, making it excellent for digestive and immune health.
The natural fermentation process enhances the cabbage's nutritional value while promoting the growth of beneficial bacteria in your gut.

4. Kimchi
A staple in Korean cuisine, kimchi is a spicy and tangy fermented vegetable dish, usually made from cabbage, radishes, garlic and chili peppers. It's not only delicious but also packed with probiotics that promote gut health.
The fermentation process creates beneficial bacteria that aid digestion, support immunity, and improve nutrient absorption. Kimchi also contains antioxidants that help fight inflammation.

–Femina

Looking for answers to obesity, in nature

Prayoga team studied pancreatic lipase inhibitory potential of 18 tropical plants, including Combretum rotundifolium (Monkey Brush Vine)

Researchers study tropical plants to identify molecules with anti-obesity properties

Keto diets, intermittent fasting – newer diet trends and fitness fads emerge by the day. On the other end of the scale, hunger and malnutrition tell grim stories of disease. And in the middle of it all lies the heavier problem – obesity!

A striking increase in global prevalence of obesity from 6.44% in the 1990s to 16.06% in 2022 and projected figures to reach a staggering 38.96% by 2040 – a trajectory that underscores a growing global health emergency, according to the database of Non-Communicable Diseases – Risk Factor Collaboration, a network of health scientists around the globe.

Amidst all the brouhaha, a team of researchers at Prayoga Institute of Education Research in collaboration with other institutes, is actively working to identify novel molecules with anti-obesity properties. So far, the team has, in addition to characterising the kinetics and inhibitory potential of active compounds from Streptomyces, also developed and refined bioautographic assays to detect lipase inhibitors from plants and microbes.

The latest study by the Prayoga team led by Dr. Venkata Krishna Bayineni, published by Taylor & Francis Group, London, investigated the pancreatic lipase inhibitory potential of 18 tropical plants. In a major finding, the flower extract of Combretum rotundifolium (commonly called Monkey Brush Vine), showed activity comparable to that of orlistat — currently the only naturally derived anti-obesity drug in clinical use.

The extracts were subjected to fractionation – a process that separates complex mixtures into smaller components. One such subfraction exhibited notable anti-lipase activity, with the potential for enhanced potency upon further purification. Diverse classes of bioactive compounds like phenolics, aldehydes and fatty acid esters present in the active subfraction suggest a synergistic mechanism of action. Isolating and characterising these specific bioactive molecules shown to have lipase inhibitory properties sets the course for subsequent in vivo evaluation and translational research.

The current pharmacological armory against obesity is through targetting different mechanisms – from appetite suppression to reducing fat absorption. Semaglutide, liraglutide, tirzepatide mimic gut hormones and modulate satiety centres while naltrexone and topiramate influence the Central Nervous System through the neurotransmitter pathways. Orlistat is a derivative of lipstatin and inhibitor of pancreatic lipase, with a microbial origin - Streptomyces toxytricini. Natural or synthetic, none of these come without the perils of side-effects. Just like their mechanisms, the severity of their side-effects also varies. The trade-off between efficacy and side-effects is what continues to further anti-obesity research.

> **Flower extract of Combretum rotundifolium shows similarity to orlistat — a naturally derived anti-obesity drug in clinical use**

Explains Dr Bayineni, 'There is a pressing need to have new and potent anti-obesity molecules from natural sources, with fewer side effects. The growing concern of adverse effects further strengthens the case for natural product discovery. Promising microbial and plant metabolites are being increasingly explored as next-generation anti-obesity therapeutics.

Building on encouraging early results, the team now continues to direct its efforts towards animal studies and preclinical testing to evaluate safety and efficacy. This progression is a critical step in translating laboratory discoveries into safer, effective anti-obesity treatments for clinical use. Ultimately, such efforts aim to address obesity not just at the molecular level, but in terms of measurable health outcomes reflected in indicators like BMI.'

What then is plaguing the weighing scale? Determined by the metric, Body Mass Index (BMI), factoring in a person's height and weight, obesity is characterised by excessive accumulation of body fat that increases vulnerability to other non-communicable diseases like cardiovascular, diabetes and certain cancers. Beyond BMI, emerging evidence shows the complex interplay of lifestyle, genetics, endocrine imbalance and gut microbiota in shaping this disorder. The deliberations on what is favouring the tilt continue to rage on while pounds keep silently adding to the scale.

Exploring other bacterial species like Bacillus has yielded lipopeptides that exhibit anti-lipase activity. A 2025 study published in Nature, reported that human gut microbial aromatic amino acid metabolites regulate obesity through intestinal immune control. Among many findings, 4-hydroxyphenylacetic acid, a derivative of tyrosine, was shown to reduce weight-gain in high-fat diet fed mice.

Plant derived extracts have shown promising results as well. Studies on Dioscorea opposita Thunb., a Chinese herb and yet another polyherbal formulation have, in addition to showing anti-adipogenic activity, also reduced weight gain or regulated body weight in obese mice.

Research on the therapeutic effects of mycological sources, especially edible mushrooms, has revealed that certain bioactive compounds may have the potential to prevent / regulate obesity. In a particular study, researchers found that polysaccharides, in this case, chitoglucan from Flammulina velutipes Sing is likely to be helping reduce weight in high-fat induced obesity mice.

Despite encouraging results from in vitro studies and a few animal model investigations, the translation of these findings into clinically viable therapeutics remains limited.

The challenge that obesity poses is both medical and molecular. Nature's molecular diversity may yet hold the key to the next generation of safer, effective therapeutics. While the calories refuse to burn, what does, however, continue to, is the midnight oil in research labs – as scientists work relentlessly to translate discoveries into therapies that make a difference.

–By Deepika S, Science Communications Specialist, Prayoga Institute of Education Research

How obese are we

The data from homeground mirrors the global scenario. Indian Council of Medical Research – India Diabetes (ICMR-INDIAB), a survey conducted by ICMR, shows alarming data from close quarters as well. Findings from the 2025 study indicates that nearly 254 million adults in India have generalised obesity, reflecting a drastic shift in the country's metabolic health landscape.

MIRRORLIGHTS

6 small ways to show compassion when your partner makes a mistake

Let's admit it, your partner is going to make mistakes at some point. They may ruin your favourite outfit by putting it in the dryer, forget an anniversary, or take you in the completely wrong direction. Yet you are still going to be with them every day because love is worth it!
As soon as your partner puts their "foot in it", here are some ways to share kindness, patience and a touch of humour with them.

Provide an ear instead of an eye roll
Listen before you begin the lecture, put yourself in their shoes, and try to understand their viewpoint. This is very important.

Say good-bye to the "I Told You So" comment
You did tell them, and they know you did. Now is the time to store that victory away, be the bigger person and move on.

Offer them warmth
A cup of tea and a sympathetic smile can go a long way to show your understanding of an unfortunate circumstance.

Remember your own greatest misses
That time you booked flights for the wrong month? Mmm, yes. We're all works in progress, darling.

Laugh together, not at each other
If the burnt roast is beyond saving, order a takeaway and turn it into a story you'll both giggle about for years.

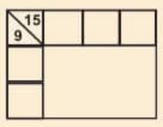
Simply say "It's Alright"
Three little words, when delivered with a soft smile makes everything so much easier. You don't have to communicate through lengthy explanations.

–Femina

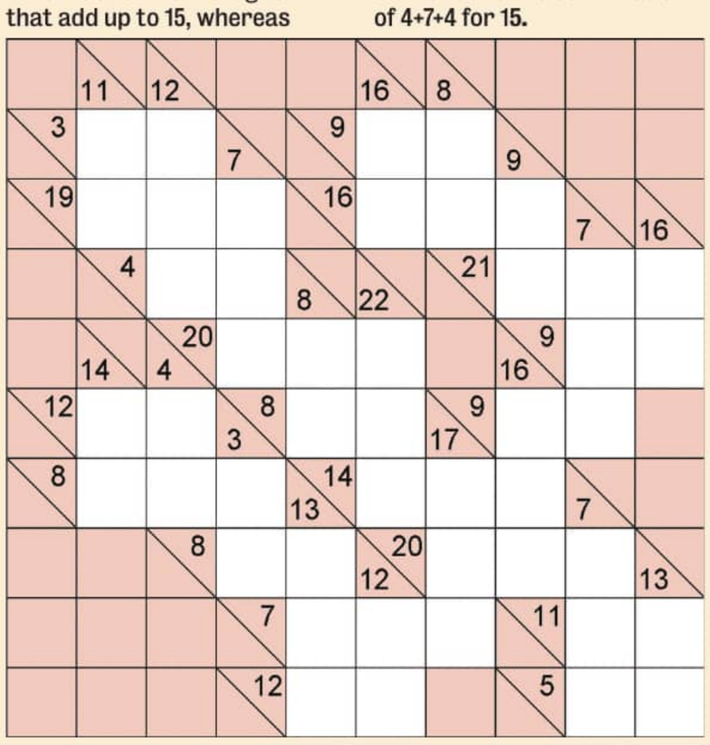
mybangaloremirror@timesofindia.com
facebook.com/theBangaloremirror
@BangaloreMirror

Kakuro

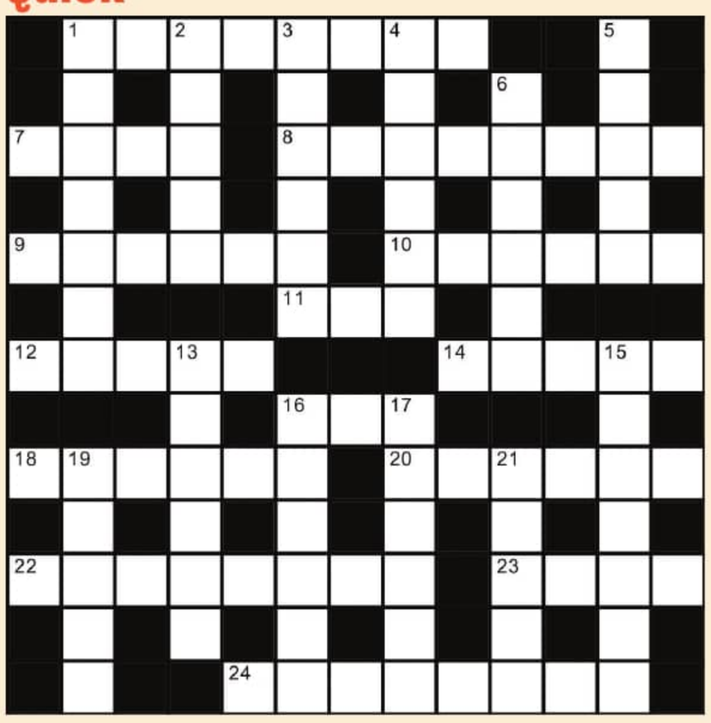
The numbers in the grey squares refer to the sums of the digits that you must fill into the empty spaces directly below or to the right of the grey square containing the number. For instance, in the given example, the 3 boxes horizontally next to 15 must contain 3 digits that add up to 15, whereas for 9, it is the 2 boxes placed vertically under it that must add up to 9. No zeros are used here, only the digits 1 through 9.



Note: A digit cannot appear more than once in any particular digit combination. For instance, in the example, we cannot have the combination of 4+7+4 for 15.



Quick



ACROSS

1 Furthest behind or most remote (8)
7 Type of TV input (4)
8 Macabre (8)
9 Outmoded (3,3)
10 Diffident or uncertain (6)
11 Sharp bark (3)
12 Branch of a tree (5)
14 An era (5)
16 Alfred's pet name (3)
18 Monastery heads (6)
20 Ahead; not lagging behind? (2,4)
22 Swelling or inflating (8)
23 Is unwell or sick (4)
24 Window coverings (8)

DOWN

1 Spanish nobleman (7)
2 Cry of a horse (5)
3 Powerful (6)
4 Stop talking (4,2)
5 Thigh bone (5)
6 Exhausts (4,2)
13 International (6)
15 Oliver Twist author ___ Dickens (7)
16 Former India paceman Nehra (6)
17 Move restlessly (6)
19 Bengaluru ___ : Our Pro Kabaddi league side (5)
21 Permission (5)

Quoteuncode

This puzzle is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that Q equals C, it will equal C throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

Today's CLUE: B EQUALS P

TQR GDV QVS JVQR DVKOTLVU DO DHH DMQWO BSQBHS?

Linemaro

Pardon me, I seem to have lost my phone number. Could I borrow yours?

Mindchow

Stay positive, work hard and make it happen

Joke of the day

Why did the chewing gum cross the road? It was stuck to the chicken's foot!

Loop

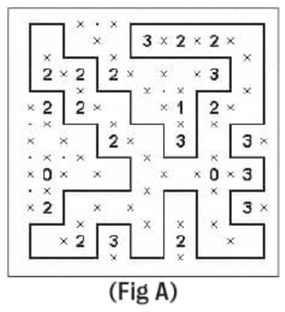
Rules

» Connect adjacent dots with vertical or horizontal lines, creating a single loop (Fig A). » Crossovers or branches are not allowed (As shown by dotted lines in Fig B). » Numbers in the puzzle indicate the number of lines that should surround it, while empty cells may be surrounded by any number of lines. » You can't draw lines around zeros. » Each puzzle has just one unique solution.

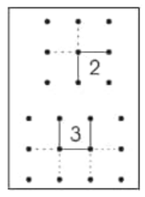
How to begin:

Example (Fig A) – Begin with the zero next to 3. Since no lines can be drawn around zero, mark crosses around it, as shown. Now there is a cross in one space around 3. So we know the three lines of 3 can only be drawn in the remaining three spaces. Next, these lines can only be extended in one direction each. Continue, using the same logic.

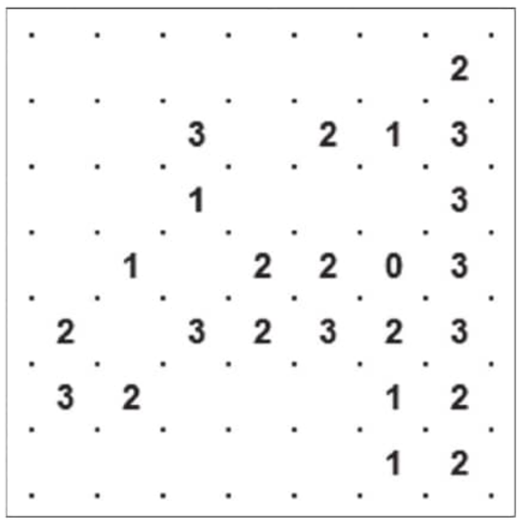
Hints: Keep eliminating possibilities by marking crosses in spaces between dots where a line isn't possible, i.e., if you have already completed required lines or where a line extension may create a branch or cause a dead-end (Fig B)



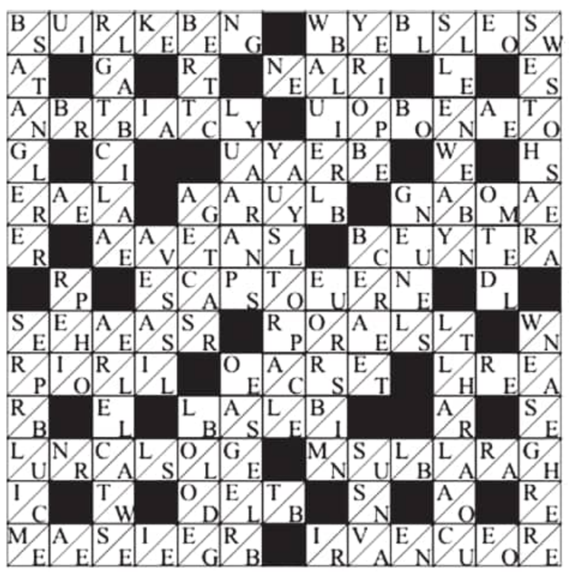
(Fig A)



(Fig B) Not Allowed



Strikeout



This crossword has no clues and the answer is there waiting for you. All you have to do is find it in each square. You have a choice of two letters, one of which you must strike out. If you choose correctly, you will be left with a grid that contains real words.

Fast five

How long do you think it will take you to unscramble the ten words shown below and fit them correctly into the grid in the order given one letter has already been entered to get you started? on your marks, get set...

1 C	2	3	4	5
6				
7				
8				
9				

ACROSS

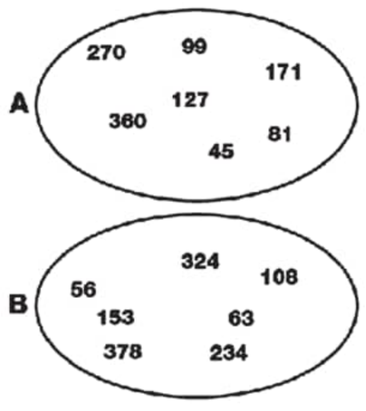
1 Mr Cap; 6 Barre; 7 True I; 8 Miter; 9 Bass I

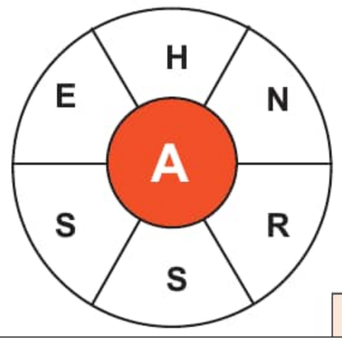
DOWN

1 Mr Cub; 2 Irate; 3 Beats; 4 IR Arm; 5 Peris

Mensapuzzle

Which number is the odd one out in each shape?





Bull's eye

How many words of four or more letters can you make from the letters shown? Every word must contain the central letter. There should be one seven-letter word. British English Dictionary is used as a reference.

11 Average; 13 Good; 15 Outstanding

SudokuChallenge

3			1					
	2					1		
9	6					4		2
		9	3	6			5	7
			9		5			
5	3			4	8	2		
7		8					9	4
		3					6	
					1			8

To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from one to nine must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

Gofigure

Place the four numbers in the first, third, fifth, and seventh boxes and whatever operators you care to use in the second, fourth, and sixth boxes in the correct order to get the answer. Use the numbers only once.

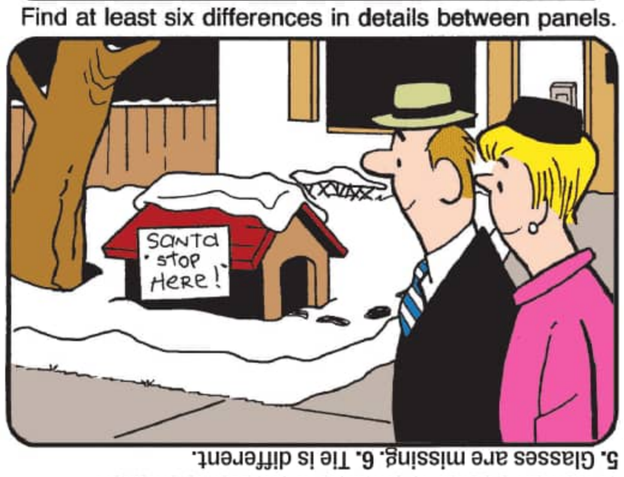
Easy = 21
1 9 6 5

Medium = 14
2 8 9 1

Hard = 6
4 4 8 4

Hocusfocus

Find at least six differences in details between panels.



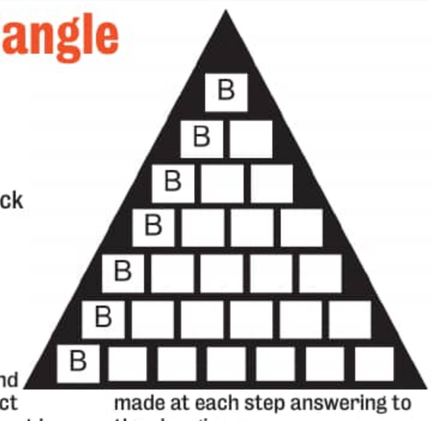
Differences: 1. Sign is moved. 2. Branch is lower. 3. Woman's collar is smaller. 4. Shutter is smaller. 5. Glasses are missing. 6. Tile is different.

Riddler

A very mean king went to a nearby village. He wanted some more slaves to serve him at his royal palace. He decided that if any family in the village had more than five children, he would take them. A cobbler and his wife had ten children. When the king came to take them, the cobbler and his wife begged and begged. Finally the king said, "I see that you have ten pairs of shoes in a box. If you can give each of your children a pair and still leave one pair out of ten in the box, you can keep your children. The cobbler and his wife began to smile at each other. How did they keep all of their children?

Alpha triangle

1 Second letter
2 Have reality
3 Place to sleep
4 Foretell
5 Make a mess of
6 Cause to get stuck
7 Flabbergasted

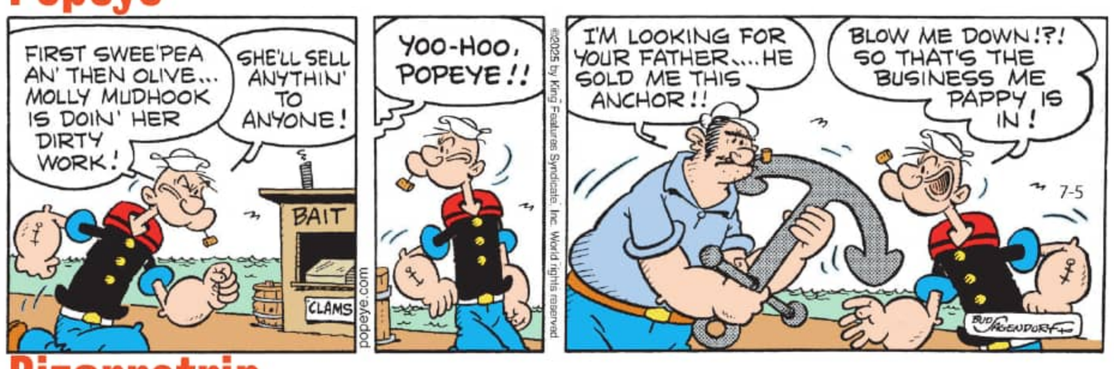


Beginning at the top move towards the bottom seven-letter word by adding a letter at each step and rearranging. A correct and different word must be made at each step answering to the clue given.

DIFFICULT TO SOLVE? FIND THESE SOLUTIONS ON THE NEXT PAGE

COMICS

Popeye


FIRST SWEE'PEA AN' THEN OLIVE... MOLLY MUDHOOK IS DOIN' HER DIRTY WORK!
SHE'LL SELL ANYTHIN' TO ANYONE!
BAIT
CLAMS
YOO-HOO, POPEYE!!
I'M LOOKING FOR YOUR FATHER....HE SOLD ME THIS ANCHOR!!
BLOW ME DOWN!?! SO THAT'S THE BUSINESS ME PAPPY IS IN!
7-5
popeye.com
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Bizarrotrip

After that first victory, I partied constantly, blew all my winnings and never raced again.
PLEASE HELP
Wayno & Piraro 12-25-25
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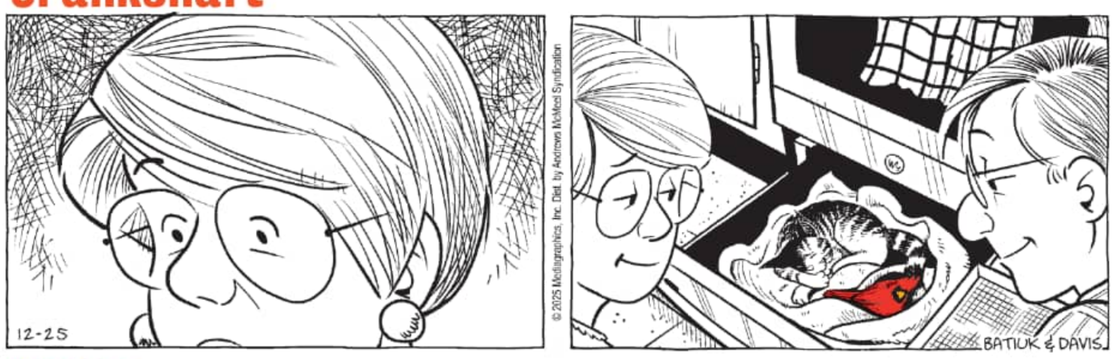
BIZARRO.COM

Diamond Lil

Hart of the city

DO YOU WANT TO GO TO DEAN'S SURPRISE BIRTHDAY PARTY?
I KNOW SOME GIRLS IN P.E. WHO WOULD LIKE TO GO TO ANYTHING DEAN'S DOING.
WELL, TELL THOSE GIRLS HE'S TAKEN!
I'LL PASS ALONG THE MESSAGE. AND I'LL BE AT THE PARTY.
HEART OF THE CITY © 2025 ANDREWS MCMEEL
GOCOMICS.COM/HEARTOFTHECITY

Crankshaft



Mutts

WRITTEN IN THE STARS

Dr SUNDEEP KOCHAR

If it's your birthday today

Today your birthday invites reflection, gratitude, and exciting new directions. Travel may appear suddenly, perhaps through work opportunities or spontaneous trips. Love feels sincere, comforting, and emotionally rewarding. Finances improve with patient planning and wise advice. At home, familiar spaces bring calm, laughter, and belonging. Move ahead bravely, trusting intuition and welcoming opportunities the coming months promise growth and joy ahead.

Aries Mar 21 – Apr 20

Your instincts feel strong today, Aries, but relying solely on intuition may not be wise. Verify important matters, especially involving finances, travel, or partnerships, to avoid small mistakes turning into larger issues.

Leo Jul 24 – Aug 23

Your warmth can soften tense conversations today, Leo. Light humour or a thoughtful change of topic may transform someone's mood. Use your natural charm to remind others that situations are rarely as bleak as they seem.

Sagittarius Nov 23 – Dec 22

Let intuition guide your day today, Sagittarius. Rather than following strict schedules, allow your mood to shape your activities. Flexibility may lead to spontaneous and enjoyable experiences.

Taurus Apr 21 – May 20

Take time to reflect on your current challenges today, Taurus. Setting emotions aside temporarily helps you see situations more clearly. Honest conversations about your true desires may reveal insights you previously overlooked.

Virgo Aug 24 – Sep 23

Supportive friends surround you today, Virgo. If you've been considering a change, this is a good moment to try something new. Even small adjustments can refresh your routine and spark renewed excitement.

Capricorn Dec 23 – Jan 20

Despite positive energy around you today, Capricorn, you might feel unusually sensitive. Consider whether you've been taking comments too personally. Strengthening emotional resilience will help you remain focused on your priorities.

Gemini May 21 – Jun 21

Strong emotional energy surrounds you today, Gemini. Reactions may feel exaggerated or playful, and someone might behave dramatically—including you. Express your feelings freely, but avoid taking temporary frustrations too seriously.

Libra Sep 24 – Oct 22

Today highlights the beauty of cooperation, Libra. True harmony comes from blending different voices rather than forcing identical opinions. Embracing diverse perspectives may help create something meaningful within your group.

Aquarius Jan 21 – Feb 19

Perfection isn't necessary today, Aquarius. Relax your expectations and focus on the bigger picture rather than obsessing over tiny details. A broader perspective may actually help you complete tasks more effectively.

Cancer Jun 22 – July 23

Memories of past experiences may surface today, Cancer, bringing both joy and sadness. Rather than dwelling on regret, recognize the lessons these moments offered and continue moving forward with wisdom.

Scorpio Oct 23 – Nov 22

Shift your attention toward your own life today, Scorpio. While you often help others solve their problems, your personal concerns deserve focus too. Quiet reflection may reveal important patterns and solutions.

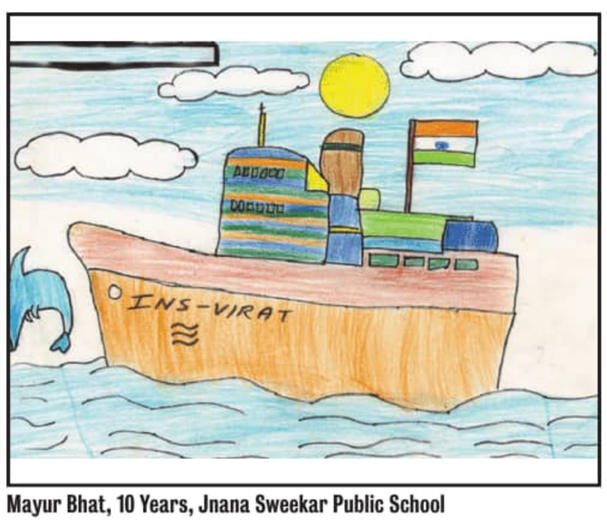
Pisces Feb 20 – Mar 20

Your natural charm shines today, Pisces. Consider organizing a casual gathering or social moment with friends. Bringing people together can create warm connections and strengthen relationships within your circle.

www.sundeepkochar.com

KIDZONE

Shila Balaraj, 9 Years, Sophia High School



Mayur Bhat, 10 Years, Jnana Sweekar Public School

Kidzone, Bangalore Mirror, No. 74/2, Sanjana Plaza, 4th & 5th Floor, Elephant Rock Road, Jayanagar 3rd block, Bengaluru-560 011;
Please send hard copies of your artwork in A4 size only.

SOLUTIONS

SOLVE IN 1M

3+0.3 = 3.3
3.3+0.33 = 0.333
3.3+0.333 = 3.663
3.63+0.333 = 3.963

QUOTE UNCODE

How can one know anything at all about people?

FAST FIVE

C	R	A	M	P
R	E	B	A	R
U	T	E	R	I
M	I	T	R	E
B	A	S	I	S

BULL'S EYE

ashen, earn, hare, HARNESS, hear, near, rash, rhea, sane, saner, sash, sear, share, shear, snare

STRIKE OUT

S	I	L	K	E	N	■	B	Y	B	L	O	W	■	■
T	■	A	■	T	■	E	L	I	■	E	■	E	■	■
A	B	B	A	C	Y	■	U	P	B	E	A	T	■	■
G	■	I	■	A	A	R	E	■	W	■	■	H	■	■
E	E	L	■	G	R	U	B	■	N	A	M	E	■	■
R	■	E	■	V	E	N	S	■	B	U	Y	E	R	■
■	P	■	E	A	S	T	E	R	N	■	L	■	■	■
S	H	E	A	R	■	R	O	A	S	T	■	W	■	■
P	I	L	L	■	E	A	S	T	■	L	E	A	■	■
R	■	E	■	B	A	L	I	■	A	■	■	S	■	■
U	N	C	L	O	G	■	N	U	L	L	A	H	■	■
C	■	T	■	D	E	B	S	■	O	■	■	E	■	■
E	A	S	I	E	R	■	R	A	N	C	O	R	■	■

QUICK

■	S	■	■	S	H	U	T	T	E	R	S	■	■	■
■	L	■	L	■	S	■	E	■	V	■	E	■	■	■
B	L	O	A	T	I	N	G	■	A	I	L	S	■	■
U	■	B	■	H	■	D	■	E	■	R	■	■	■	■
A	B	O	T	S	■	I	N	L	E	A	D	■	■	■
■	■	L	■	■	A	L	F	■	■	H	■	■	■	■
B	O	U	G	H	■	■	E	P	O	C	H	■	■	■
G	■	■	■	Y	A	P	■	U	■	■	■	■	■	■
O	L	D	H	A	T	■	U	N	S	U	R	E	■	■
A	■	G	■	H	■	T	■	E	■	U	■	■	■	■
H	D	M	I	■	G	R	U	E	S	O	M	E	■	■
I	■	E	■	I	■	H	■	U	■	E	■	■	■	■
H	I	N	D	M	O	S	T	■	F	■	■	■	■	■

MENSA PUZZLE

A = 127, B = 56. All other numbers are divisible by 9.

RIDDLER

The cobbler and his wife gave each of his nine children a pair of shoes. That left one pair in the box. They then gave this tenth child the box with the shoes in it.

SUDOKU

3	8	5	1	2	4	9	7	6
4	2	7	6	9	3	1	8	5
9	6	1	8	5	7	4	3	2
1	4	9	3	6	2	8	5	7
8	7	2	9	1	5	6	4	3
5	3	6	7	4	8	2	1	9
7	1	8	2	3	6	5	9	4
2	5	3	4	8	9	7	6	1
6	9	4	5	7	1	3	2	8

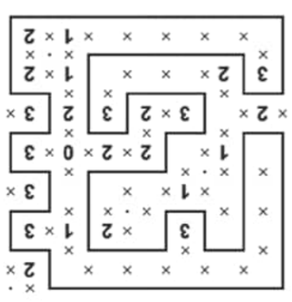
ALPHA TRIANGLE

B, Be, Bed, Bode, Bodge, Bogged, Boggled.

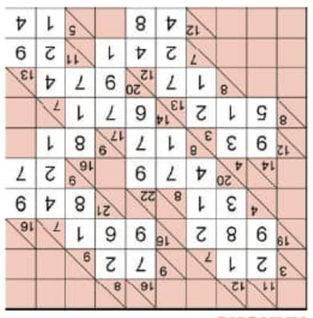
GO FIGURE

Easy
5 + 6 + 1 + 9 = 21
Medium
8 + 9 − 2 − 1 = 14
Hard
4 x 4 / 8 + 4 = 6

LOOP



KAKURO



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**'Scary Movie 6'—** Anna Faris to return as Cindy Campbell after 25 years; says, she felt 'shocked and immediately thrilled'

SANDALWOOD SHOTS

Y MAHESWARA REDDY

'NH 66' shoot begins

The muhurat function of NH 66 was held at Sri Raghavendra Swamy Mutt in Raja Rajeshwari Nagar on Thursday. The movie title was unveiled on the occasion, with Ugram Manju and prominent Sandalwood personalities in attendance. Pramod Shetty, Sruthi Hariharan, and Rajesh Nataranga are cast in key roles. The film went on floors in Mangaluru on Monday. NH 66 marks the directorial debut of Manjunath TR. "I worked under veteran director Bhargava. Later, I went abroad for a specialised study in script writing and screenplay. Now, I am making my debut as a director with this movie. I am a devotee of Raghavendra Swamy. I am also backing this movie under the Raya Films banner," said Manjunath.

"Pramod Shetty and Sruthi Hariharan agreed to act in this movie when I narrated the script to them. The movie is about incidents that take place during the journey from Mangaluru to Goa. The movie revolves around three to four characters. The movie NH 66 has a tagline - One Highway Many Secrets. The regular shooting of the movie begins from April 6 in Mangaluru," the director said.

'Dildar' set for release

Shreyas Manju, known for Kannada films Padde Huli, Raana, Vishnu Priya, and Marutha, is set to appear on the silver screen in a different avatar. He plays the protagonist in Dildar, which is scheduled for release shortly. The team unveiled the movie's teaser on Shreyas's birthday, and it has received positive feedback from audiences. Madhu Gowda from Gangur in Hassan district makes his directorial debut with this film.

"I worked as associate director for eight Kannada movies. Prior to this, I was an ITI diploma holder. I worked for Bharat Earth Movers Limited, but my passion for movies made me quit the job and come to Bengaluru," said Madhu Gowda.

The debutant director said the film was shot in and around Mysuru, Mangaluru, Bengaluru, and Sakleshpur.

He said that he selected Manju Shreyas to play the protagonist because of his performance in his maiden movie Padde Huli. "I am very happy with Shreya's hard work during the shooting. Keerthi Krishna, the niece of Sandalwood actor Sharan, makes debut as a heroine with this movie," he said.

Post-production works of the movie are already completed. "We will approach the Central Board of Film Certification shortly," he said.

The movie also features Sadhu Kokila, Chandra Prabha, Karthik, Chillar Manju, Aandro Avinash, Bhajarangi Loki, and Arpith.

'People were not kind to her, it played on her mind'

Janhvi Kapoor opens up about people's perception of her mother

Sridevi married Boney Kapoor in 1996. At that time he was already married to Mona Shourie and had two children Arjun and Anshula Kapoor. After ending his first marriage to Mona, Kapoor married Sridevi and had two daughters Janhvi and Khushi Kapoor. While Sridevi passed away too soon, fans continue to miss her immensely, but it was shattering for her family, especially daughters. In a recent interview, Janhvi has opened up on losing her mother and how she understands her better now.

Janhvi said during a chat with Raj Shamani, "I try to escape my mind, my inner turmoil. The feelings that I haven't dealt with, the trauma that I haven't dealt with. The biggest trauma was losing my mom, especially the way I did, in front of the whole world and dealing with that journey."

When asked what it would be like to speak to her mother today, Janhvi responded with uncertainty. "I don't think she would be able to recognise me now. The world has changed. I have seen things. I have opinions of my own that are not the opinions that she had. I don't know what that interaction would look like," she said.

She added that if she had the chance to say one thing to her mother, it would come with a sense of understanding and regret. "I understand her now. And I am sorry that I didn't understand her before," she said.

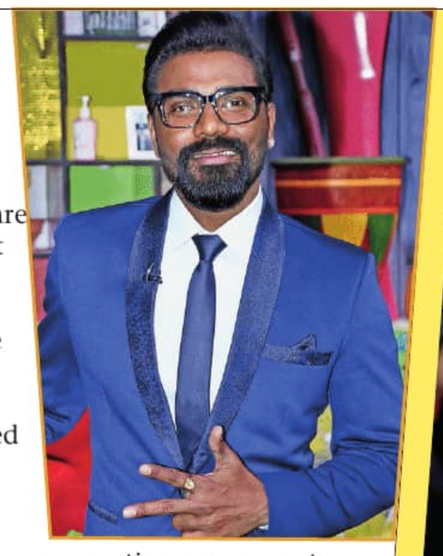
Janhvi also recalled watching an old interview of Sridevi, where the late star spoke candidly about her vulnerabilities and her desire to be taken seriously in the Hindi film industry. Reflecting on that, Janhvi said, "I have seen that journey. People were not very kind when she was around. They called her a homewrecker and all the cruel things. It played on her mind and made her feel a certain way, but history is kind to people who have passed."

— ETimes

Remo D'Souza gears up for next dance film

Remo D'souza started the dance film trend in 2013 with 'ABCD – Any Body Can Dance'. Without any big stars, it still opened at Rs 5.5 crore, competing with Akshay Kumar's 'Special 26'. The 2015 sequel 'ABCD 2', featuring Varun Dhawan and Shraddha Kapoor, became a huge success, topping Rs 100 crore. As per the reports, now, Remo has begun a new dance film, possibly 'ABCD 3'.

According to Bollywood Hungama, it'll be produced by Amit Chandrra of Trigger Happy Studios. Remo and his team have cracked a great idea for the film. They are now working on the screenplay. Remo is fully aware that a lot has changed since the last time he attempted a dance film in terms of audience consumption, exposure to various dance forms, etc. He has kept those changes and Gen Z and Gen Alpha audiences in mind while envisioning his upcoming venture.



—ETimes

Meryl reveals inspiration behind Miranda Priestly

In a surprising revelation ahead of the highly anticipated sequel to 'The Devil Wears Prada', actor Meryl Streep has clarified the real-life inspirations behind her iconic portrayal of Miranda Priestly, debunking a long-standing fan theory.

As per People magazine, in a recent interview, Streep addressed speculation that her character was based on fashion editor Anna Wintour. Instead, she revealed that two Hollywood legends shaped the role: Mike Nichols and Clint Eastwood. "I was basically imitating Mike Nichols that whole time," Streep said, adding, "If Mike Nichols and Clint Eastwood had a baby... it would be Miranda Priestly," as quoted by People magazine.

—ETimes

Here's why Alia needed a break from talking

Alia Bhatt, hosting her first award show, joked she wouldn't speak again until Tuesday after hours of nonstop stage chatter. On Monday morning, the actress posted a series of photos from her hosting debut on Instagram.

She posted: "Ladies and gentleman boys and girls last night was spent celebrating the magic ON screen and the magicians OFF screen. My first as a host and I couldn't have asked for better-more hilarious & fabulous co-hosts @whosunilgrover @zakirkhan_208.
This is me, Alia Bhatt, signing off. Hosting = talking for 4 hours straight. I will not be speaking again until Tuesday. Happy Monday."

—ETimes